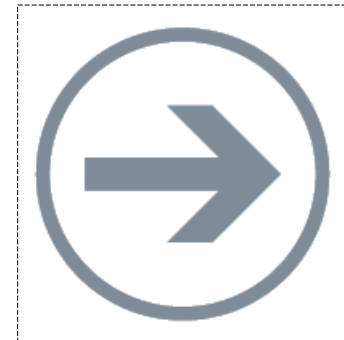


# Introducing SOL\*R

Scott Leslie

BCcampus

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# What is SOL\*R ?

A service for BC post-secondary educators aimed at facilitating the

- ✿ **Sharing**
- ✿ **Discovery**
- ✿ **Remixing &**
- ✿ **Reuse**

of provincially-funded (and other) learning resources under “open content” style licenses



<http://solr.bccampus.ca:8000/>

# BC Education Perspective

Participation of all BC public post-secondary institutions increases system service efficiencies

Post-secondary system partners collaboratively provide learners with integrated access to online academic and student services

## BCcampus Mission

BCcampus is an online service connecting learners and educators to programs and resources from all public post-secondary institutions in BC.

The graphic features a large blue circle with a white border, containing the mission statement. Below this circle is a large blue triangle. The text 'Technology Perspective' is centered at the bottom of the triangle, preceded by a horizontal line.

## **BCcampus Mission**

BCcampus is an online service  
connecting learners  
and educators to programs  
and resources from all  
public post-secondary  
institutions in BC.

Support and services for an effective  
systemic use of web-based educational technologies and tools

Portal technology development and  
deployment is aligned with national and international standards

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## **Technology Perspective**

## BCcampus Mission

BCcampus is an online service connecting learners and educators to programs and resources from all public post-secondary institutions in BC.

- Course Information -
- Application Service -
- Registration and Payment -
- Programs and Courses -
- Library Services -
- Bookstore Services -

Students are able to access information related to online programs and courses, as well as student services from multiple post-secondary institutions from a single web portal

Learner Services Perspective

## Educator Services Perspective

Participation of educators contributes to a repository of high-quality, system-accessible learning resources

Online Program Development fund provides funding to BC's post-secondary institutions to increase courses, programs, technologies, and services to students

BCcampus Online Community provides a forum for communities of practice to engage in professional development

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## Technology Perspective



# Online Program Development Fund

- ❖ Funding to public post-secondary institutions to increase the number of online courses, programs, technologies, and services
- ❖ Encourages inter-institutional partnerships
- ❖ Resources produced through this fund become accessible system-wide for sharing and reuse.
- ❖ Three rounds of the \$1.5 million OPDF have taken place — one in 2003, 2004, and 2005. 4<sup>th</sup> round CFP closes April 28.

## BC Commons License

- ❁ 1 of 2 license options for OPDF content
- ❁ Developers retain IP
- ❁ Supports free sharing of content among a regional consortia
- ❁ Developers retain commercialization potential outside consortia.
- ❁ Reduces effort for permission to reuse
- ❁ Requires sharing of modifications of original content with larger community

Some of the challenges  
we've tried to address...

## Resource interoperability and granularity...

- ❖ Learning Resources come in all shapes and sizes:
  - ❖ Different formats and media types – images, animations, web content, PDFs, Powerpoints, Word docs, course management system exports...
  - ❖ Different levels of ‘granularity’- concepts, lessons, modules, courses, programs

## Different kinds of “Reuse”...



- ❖ Instructors need to be able to
  - ❖ Reuse content "as is"
  - ❖ Wrap existing content "as is" in new contexts (re-aggregate)
  - ❖ Alter the content (either for quality, accuracy or to suite their own needs)

# Sustainability...

- ✿ BCcampus needs to be able to
  - ✿ Track content use and reuse
  - ✿ Support the cataloguing of content
  - ✿ Support versioning of content
  - ✿ Secure content which should only be available to validated BC Educators



## ...and some opportunities we're trying to enable

- ✿ Federation with other repositories
  - ✿ Open Archives Initiative
  - ✿ Edusource Communications Layer/IMS DRI
  - ✿ Z39.50 Catalogues
- ✿ Interoperation with different tools
  - ✿ Web Services interfaces
- ✿ Flexible item definitions and security model
- ✿ Coming Soon...
  - ✿ Multiple front ends

## ... and some real obstacles we face

- ❦ Reluctant contributors
- ❦ The “just one more revision” syndrome
- ❦ Cultural antagonism to reusing other peoples’ materials
- ❦ The model may just be wrong ;-(
  - ❦ The production model
  - ❦ The delivery model
  - ❦ The sharing model

# Next Steps

- ❁ Other content welcome!
- ❁ Apply for a BCcampus portal account at <https://portal.bccampus.ca/>
- ❁ Contact me at [sleslie@bccampus.ca](mailto:sleslie@bccampus.ca) or 250-383-2456